

Appl. No. 09/749,285

Reply to Office action of May 28, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of May 28, 2004 rejected claims 1-45 and withdrew claims 46-51 from consideration. This Response cancels claims 1-15 and 31-46. Claims 16-30 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of this response.

Election

The Examiner requested restriction between two groups of inventions, Group I comprising claims 1-45 and Group II comprising claims 46-51. Applicant elects to prosecute Group I, comprising claims 1-45. Applicant cancels claims 46-51.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 16-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for "failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention."

Applicant has amended claim 16. Applicant asserts that claim 16, as amended, satisfies the requirements of § 112. Applicant also amends claim 17 to contain the same language as amended claim 16. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests the removal of this rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103

The Office Action variously rejected claims 1-15 and 31-45 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, citing various references. Claims 1-15 and 31-45 have been canceled, rendering these rejections moot.

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CONCLUSION

All pending claims in the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges believed due concerning this response, please charge to White & Case LLP Deposit Account 23-1703. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully examining the present application. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas DelRosario at (650) 213-0345.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 8, 2004

By: 

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